

Indigenous Languages Inquiry Project

Introduction

Chanie Wenjack's family and Gord Downie created the Downie-Wenjack Fund to spread awareness of Indigenous issues in Canada and encourage Canadians to "Do Something!"

Inquiry projects are all about you taking control of your own learning, and sharing your knowledge with others. To complete this inquiry assignment, you will explore, plan, analyze, create, share, and reflect on a topic of your choice.

So, what do *you* want to know about Indigenous languages? What do you think other people should know about Indigenous languages?

Use the following pages to explore topics related to Indigenous languages, choose your inquiry question, plan your research, and create a presentation to share what you learn.

Part 1: Explore - Choose your inquiry question

- a. Choose one of the following inquiry questions (or create your own with the permission and guidance of your teacher):
 - What Indigenous language revitalization initiatives are taking place in my region OR in Canada OR in other countries?
 - What is the most effective way to teach Indigenous languages?
 - How did the residential school system affect the transmission of Indigenous languages from one generation to the next?
 - How many Indigenous languages and language families are there in Canada, what are they, how are they distributed, and how do they differ?
 - How do Indigenous languages connect to culture and worldview?
 - How do Indigenous languages differ from European languages, and how are they the same?
 - Why are national and international organizations like the United Nations and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada taking stances on Indigenous language rights, and what are their positions?
 - What is the difference between an oral and written language? How are oral and written methods both being used to revitalize Indigenous languages?
 - What are the laws surrounding Indigenous languages in Canada?
 - How do factors such as geography and socioeconomic status influence the strength of Indigenous languages and what patterns can be found?



Name: _____

Date: _____

b. Now that you've chosen your inquiry question, fill out the chart below:

Inquiry Question: My inquiry question will be...

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their inquiry question.

Rationale: I've chosen this question because...

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their rationale for choosing the question.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Part 2: Plan - Research your inquiry question

Prior Knowledge: Things I already know about this topic include...

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New Knowledge: Things I would like to know about this topic include....

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to write new knowledge they want to gain.

Part 3: Analyze - Answer your inquiry question

Once you have finished your research, list **three to five** major findings that make up an answer to your inquiry question. Be sure to list your evidence, including the source, in the second column.

Analyze - Through my research, I learned...	
Findings	Evidence

Part 4: Create & Share - Present the answers to your inquiry question in a creative way

The next steps in the inquiry process are to create a representation of your findings and share them with an audience. Discuss with your teacher and decide which of the following formats you would like to use to share your inquiry findings, or come up with an idea of your own:

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Podcast
- Video
- News Article
- Poster
- Photo Essay
- Research Paper
- YouTube Video
- Poem
- Infographic
- Song

Your teacher will provide you with criteria for the completion of your inquiry project.

Part 5: Evaluation - Reflect upon and assess your inquiry process and project**Inquiry Project: Reflection & Self-Assessment**

What part(s) of your inquiry project are you most proud of?

What part(s) of your inquiry project would you change if you could?

During your research on Indigenous languages, what stood out to you the most?

What should everyone know about Indigenous languages?

What grade would you give yourself on this project and why? Provide **three** reasons.